

Message Text

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DRAFTED BYC: ARA-RJSURBER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

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FOR AMBASSADOR BOWDLER

FOLLOWING REPEAT MEXICO 5495 SENT ACTION SECSTATE,
JUNE 28TH:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 5495

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJ: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: FONSEC NOTE OF JUNE 19

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, FOREIGN SECRETARY
RABASA EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH USG HANDLING
OF HIS RECENT NOTE ON THE BRACERO ISSUE, THOUGH HE MENTIONED
WHAT HE CONSIDERED HASTY COMMENT BY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS
BEFORE TEXT HAD BEEN RECEIVED. HE WAS UNHAPPY, HOWEVER,
OVER REPORTED STATEMENTS OF INS DIRECTOR CONCERNING 300 NEW
AGENTS TO BE USED IN DEALING WITH ILLEGAL ALIENS AND
WONDERED WHETHER SUCH STATEMENTS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED BY
GENERAL PUBLIC AS "MAILED FIST" TYPE OF RESPONSE TO HIS INITIATIVE.
AMBASSADOR ASSURED FOREIGN SECRETARY THAT STATEMENTS NOT RELATED TO
HIS NOTE AND TIMING WAS COINCIDENTAL.

2. POPULAR "24 HOURS" (ZABLUDOVSKY) NEWS PROGRAM ON JUNE 24
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CARRIED ITEM ON PORT ISABEL REPATRIATION (DETENTION)

CENTER WHICH SHOULD HAVE FAVORABLE IMPACT. COMMENTS BY CENTER DIRECTOR (INS) WERE HELPFUL AND OPEN AND COMMENTS BY MEXICAN CONSULAR OFFICER AT CENTER WERE CLEARLY FAVORABLE. CONSUL EXPRESSED INDIGNATION OVER MEXICANS ENGAGED IN ALIEN SMUGGLING (ENGANCHADORES) BUT WAS OBVIOUSLY SATISFIED THERE WAS NO ABUSE OF DETAINEES BY U.S. OFFICIALS AT CENTER. (HIS COMMENTS ARE BEING TRANSCRIBED AND WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL.)

3. OFFICER FROM EMBASSY POLITICAL SECTION IS NOW VISITING REPATRIATION CENTERS AT EL CENTRO AND EL PASO IN COMPANY OF CONSULS GENERAL AT TIJUANA AND CIUDAD JUAREZ RESPECTIVELY. HIS OBSERVATIONS, WHICH WILL BE REPORTED, SHOULD GIVE EMBASSY FIRST-HAND INFORMATION TO REFUTE "CONCENTRATION CAMP" CHARGES MADE BY UNINFORMED OR ILL-INTENTIONED MEXICAN SOURCES. JOVA

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